

Mayor Martin O'Malley presents  
The City of Baltimore Reservoirs

# 2006

## Pocket Guide to Boating & Fishing

*Public Relations  
Society of America  
Best in Maryland Chapter  
Award of Excellence  
2005 Boating & Fishing Guide*



# REVISED REGULATIONS - 2006

- The use of rowing shells is allowed at all three watershed reservoirs for a one-year trial period commencing with the 2006 boating season. All other existing "Watershed Regulations" that pertain to rowing shells will remain in effect.
- Fishing is allowed from kayaks commencing with the 2006 boating season.

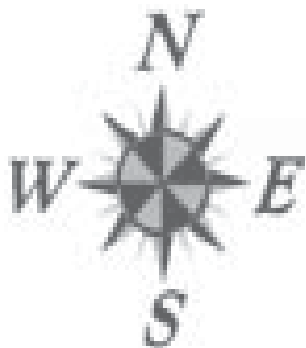
# Notice

*This Pocket Guide includes a summary of Baltimore City's Watershed Regulations. To the extent that a conflict may exist between this Pocket Guide and the Watershed Regulations, the Watershed Regulations shall prevail. Thank you.*



# Inside

Your *Pocket Guide to Boating and Fishing* contains valuable information on boating and fishing at the City of Baltimore's reservoirs and their watersheds: Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy.



Watershed fishing  
and boating regula-  
tions,

Maps of the three  
reservoirs and their  
watersheds,

Species stocking,

Survey information,

A list of species sighted at each watershed  
and phone numbers for further information.

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# Special Thanks



Much of the information presented here was initially gathered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Freshwater Fisheries' biologists Ed Enamait, Charlie Gougeon, Letha Grimes, Todd Heerd, and Mark Staley. Additional information was provided by Baltimore City Public Works employee Gene Scarpulla of the Reservoir Natural Resources Section. Base maps were provided by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

The city also thanks the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, the Maryland Association of Mountain Bike Operators, the Springdale Community Association and the Watershed Protection Coalition. These groups conducted shoreline and woodland cleanups at the reservoirs in 2005.

If your organization is interested in conducting a cleanup at one of the city's reservoirs, please contact the Department of Public Works at 410-396-5023.

# A Message From The Director



*Baltimore's three reservoirs, Loch Raven, Prettyboy and Liberty, serve not only as sources for our outstanding drinking water, they are also recreational treasures. Photographers, painters, bird watchers, bicyclists and picnickers all enjoy the rustic*

*splendor of these watersheds. With the completion of the Loch Raven Dam project, access to that area is easy once again.*

*Boating and fishing on our reservoirs are favorite pastimes for many and call for special responsibilities by participants. I hope this booklet makes your visit even more pleasurable while helping you help us to preserve our valuable natural resources.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "George L. Winfield". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large, sweeping "G" and "W".

George L. Winfield

# Fishing



## FISHING LICENSES

- Fishing at all three city reservoirs requires a valid Maryland State Fishing License.
- Fishing licenses are available at most Maryland sporting goods stores.
- Persons under 16 do not require fishing licenses.
- No fishing fees are charged by Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

## SEASONS AND TIMES

- The reservoirs are open sunrise to sunset year-round.
- Bank fishing is allowed at city reservoirs year-round.
- Boat fishing is allowed at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs March 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Boat fishing is allowed at Loch Raven Reservoir April 1st to November 27<sup>th</sup> (limited schedule after Labor Day).

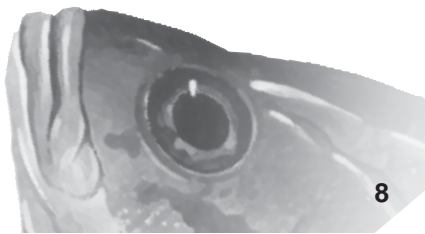


## METHODS OF FISHING

- Only fishing with rod, hook and line is allowed.
- Ice fishing, bow fishing and the use of nets or other devices is prohibited.
- Fishing is allowed from rowboats, runabouts, canoes and kayaks.
- Maryland State Fishing Regulations, including size and creel limits, must be obeyed at all times.
- Fishing is allowed from the south side of the Deer Park/Nicodemus Road Bridge at Liberty Reservoir. The south side of the bridge has been retrofitted with a fishing area.

## PROHIBITIONS

- *No fishing* from steep banks, rock cliffs or other dangerous locations.
- *No fishing* at designated fish refuge areas.
- *No fishing* from rowing shells.
- *No fishing* within 1500 feet of Prettyboy Dam.
- *No fishing* between Liberty Road and Liberty Dam.
- *No fishing* between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and the small Loch Raven Dam.
- *No fishing* from bridges (except designated platforms on the Dulaney Valley Road Bridge at Loch Raven and on the Deer Park/Nicodemus Road Bridge at Liberty).
- The use of float tubes, chest waders or hip boots is prohibited.





## **LIVE BAIT**

- Live aquatic bait is prohibited *unless* purchased from a Maryland-certified zebra mussel-free bait store.
- Anglers using live bait must possess a receipt *less than 48 hours old* from the certified bait store where the bait was purchased.
- This prohibition applies to all live aquatic bait, including fish that have been caught in the reservoirs.

## **NOTICE**

- *The city may alter any regulations or prohibit fishing altogether as it sees fit to protect the reservoirs.*

# Boating



## **BOATING PERMITS**

Boating at all three city reservoirs requires a valid boating permit.

Permits must be carried while boating.

Permits are nontransferable.

Permit stickers must be displayed on outside of boat - one on each side in line with the rear seat.

Permits for Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs are only issued by the City of Baltimore. The cost of a City season permit is \$50.00.

## **BOAT PERMIT RENEWAL INFORMATION**

Applications Available: February 1<sup>st</sup>

Renewal Processing: Third week of February

## **TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION**

*City permits may only be obtained by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to:*

**City of Baltimore, Reservoir Natural Resources Section, 5685 Oakland Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784-6828.**

For more information, please call the Reservoir Boating Information Line at 410-795-6150.

- Permits for Loch Raven Reservoir are only issued by Baltimore County. For more information on county permits, please visit the Loch Raven Fishing Center at 12101 Dulaney Valley Road or call 410-887-7692, in season, or 410-887-3818, off season.

## SEASONS AND TIMES

- The reservoirs are open sunrise to sunset year-round.
- The boating season at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The boating season at Loch Raven Reservoir runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 27<sup>th</sup> (limited schedule after Labor Day).
- Boats must be removed when the boating season ends, or they will be impounded and subject to an impounding fee.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Reservoir boaters under 18 must be accompanied by a person 18 or older.
- All boats must be equipped with oars and oarlocks or paddles.
- Rowboats or canoes may use battery-powered electric motors.
- Kayaks are allowed on all three reservoirs. All other existing "Watershed Regulations" that pertain to kayaks remain in effect.
- Rowing shells will be allowed provisionally on all three reservoirs for a one-year trial period commencing with the 2006 boating season. All other existing "Watershed Regulations" that pertain to rowing shells remain in effect.
- All watercraft must be between 12' and 20' in length.
- Boats must have beams (widths) 48" or greater and depths 18" or greater.
- Canoes must have beams (widths) 35" or greater.
- Boats may only be launched and removed from designated ramps.
- Unoccupied boats must be kept securely locked at designated storage locations.
- Due to the potential for zebra mussel contamination, boaters on Liberty, Loch Raven and/or Prettyboy Reservoirs must sign an affidavit stating their boat will be used *only on these reservoirs*.

## SAFETY

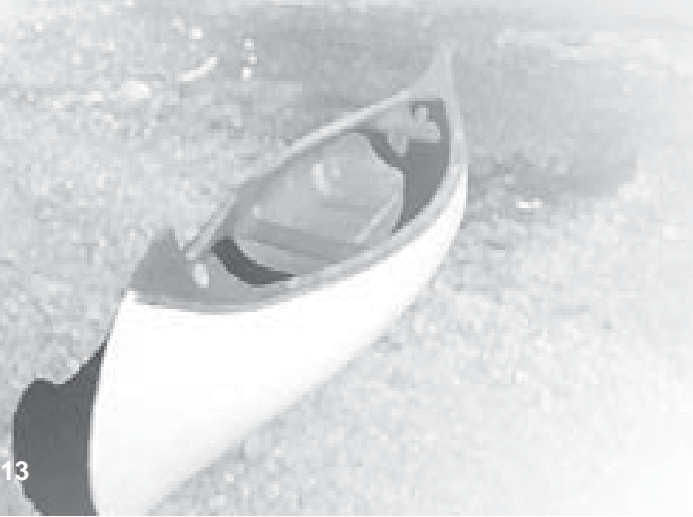
- All boats must be seaworthy.
- Boaters must have one U.S. Coast Guard approved *wearable* personal flotation device for each occupant.
- Boaters must have some means of making an efficient sound signal such as a whistle, bell or horn.
- Rowboats over 16' must have one *throwable* personal flotation device.
- *Most* boats require fire extinguishers.
- Boats may not be operated with a greater number of occupants than specified by manufacturer.
- Operators born on or after July 1, 1972 must have in their possession a valid Certificate of Boating Safety Education.
- Recreational boaters are urged not to interfere with persons fishing.
- Wearing life preservers is strongly recommended.

## PROHIBITIONS

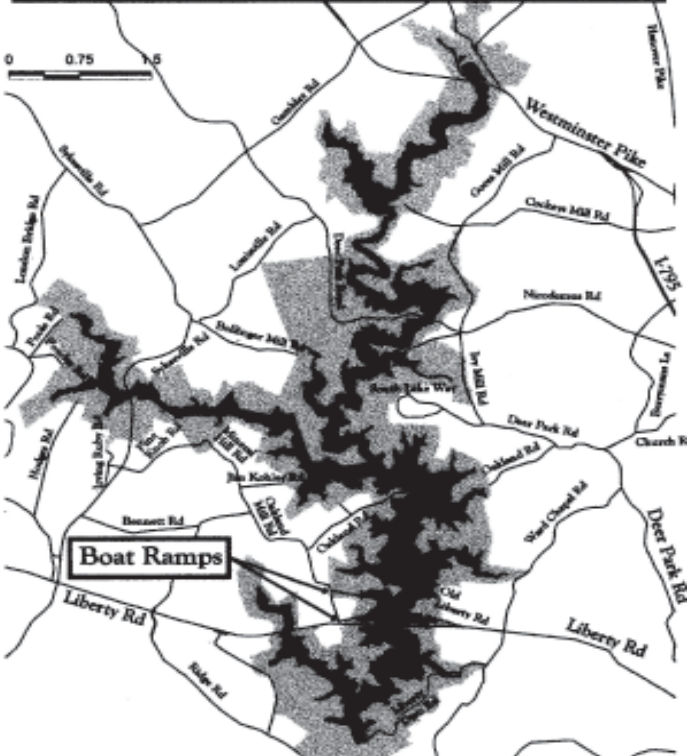
- Gasoline-powered engines are prohibited on the reservoirs.
- Inflatable, collapsible, sail and pontoon boats are prohibited on the reservoirs.
- *No boating* between Liberty Road and Liberty Dam.
- *No boating* between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and Loch Raven Dam.
- *No boating* between Loch Raven Dam and small Loch Raven Dam.
- *No boating* within 1500 feet of Prettyboy Dam.
- *Only* State registration number stickers are to be displayed on the forward section of the boat.
- Improper boat storage in spaces designated for handicapped boaters is prohibited.

## NOTICE

- *Persons using boats on the reservoirs do so at their own risk.*
- *The city may immediately remove and/or impound any unsafe boats.*
- *Season permits will be revoked when any boat is removed by the city.*
- *Unclaimed boats will be considered city property and may be disposed of by the city.*
- *The city is not responsible for damage to or loss of any privately-owned boat whether or not it is being held by the city because of these violations.*
- *Permits will be revoked by the city whenever the holder has been found in violation of regulations.*
- *The city may refuse past permit violators further reservoir boating privileges.*
- *The city may reinstate the moratorium on boat use on any or all of its reservoirs at any time.*



## Liberty Reservoir Watershed



# Liberty Reservoir



## 2005 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Shoreline seining to document natural reproduction; spring electrofishing to assess the black bass populations; fall gill netting for striped bass; night electrofishing to document striped bass and walleye natural reproduction.

**Largemouth Bass:** Good hatch. Spring survey found fish to be in excellent condition. The largest fish collected was 22.1 inches and weighed 6.6 pounds.

**Smallmouth Bass:** Fair hatch documented during seining survey. Fish were in good physical condition in late fall. The largest fish collected was 22.2 inches and weighed 5.4 pounds.

**Striped Bass:** Poor to fair hatch. Four young-of-year (YOY) fish were found this fall during night electrofishing. This is the first year since 2002 that we found YOY. Fall gill netting resulted in the collection of 11 adult striped bass ranging in size from 26.5 to 39.3 inches. The largest weight was a little over 22 pounds; five year classes were represented.





(Angler report: On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Mike Evans found a dead 57-pound, 3-ounce striped bass floating on the reservoir surface. Although not countable, this fish surpassed the Maryland freshwater fishing record by 10 pounds, 1 ounce. The fish was aged to be 15 years old.)

**Walleye:** Poor hatch. Only one YOY was found during night electrofishing; fall surveyed adult fish ranged up to 29.3 inches, the largest weighed 8.3 pounds.

**Bluegill:** Good reproduction.














































**Channel Catfish:** Collected 24 fish during gill net survey, ranging in size from 20 to 28 inches; the largest weighed 10.8 pounds.























































**Stocking:** 3500 adult rainbow trout (11 to 12 inches).

#### **2006 PLANS INCLUDE:**

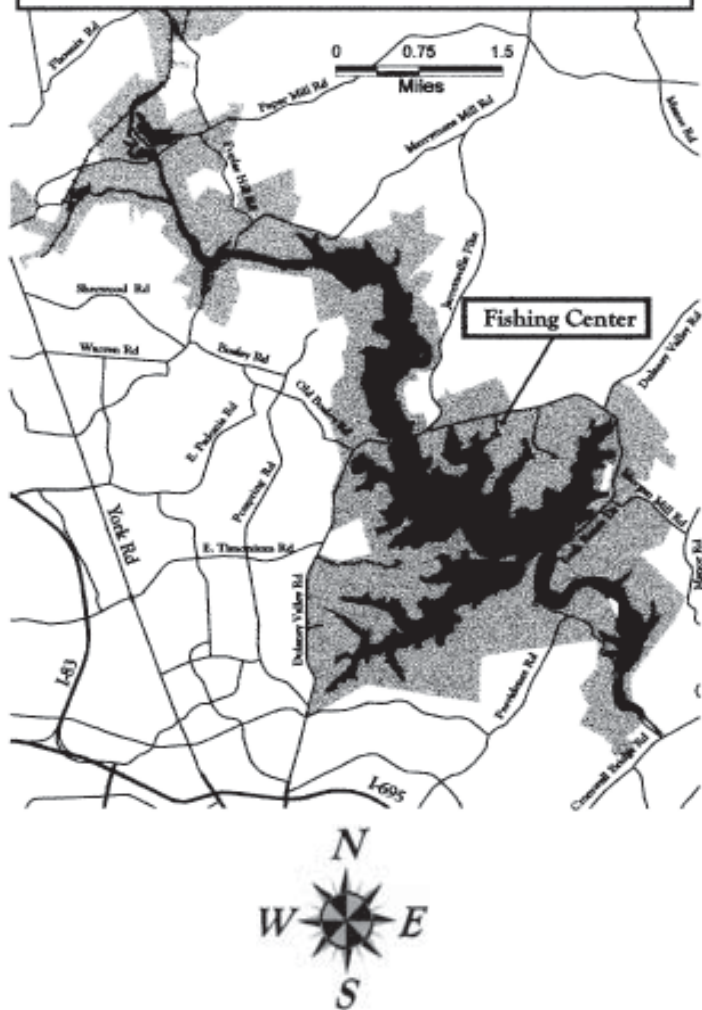
Stocking of 3,500 rainbow trout and 50,000 fingerling walleye (due to low recruitment in the past 5 years); monitoring of striped bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and white perch populations.

# 2006 Reservoir Species List

| Species              | Liberty   | Loch Raven  | Prettyboy   |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| American Eel         |  |  |   |
| Banded Killifish     |  |  |  |
| Black Crappie        |  |  |  |
| Blacknose Dace       |   |   |  |
| Bluegill             |  |  |  |
| Bluntnose Minnow     |  |  |  |
| Brook Trout          |   |   |  |
| Brown Bullhead       |  |  |   |
| Brown Trout          |  |  |  |
| Chain Pickerel       |   |  |   |
| Channel Cat fish     |  |  |  |
| Common Carp          |  |  |  |
| Creek Chub           |  |   |   |
| Cutlips Minnow       |  |   |   |
| Eastern Mosquitofish |   |  |   |
| Fallfish             |   |  |  |
| Golden Shiner        |  |  |  |
| Green Sunfish        |  |  |  |
| Largemouth Bass      |  |  |  |
| Mummichog            |  |   |   |
| Northern Hog Sucker  |  |   |  |

|                           |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Northern Pike             |  |  |  |
| Pumpkinseed               |  |  |  |
| Rainbow Trout             |   |  |  |
| Redbreast Sunfish         |  |  |  |
| Rock Bass                 |   |  |   |
| Rosyside Dace             |   |   |  |
| Smallmouth Bass           |  |  |  |
| Spotfin Shiner            |  |  |  |
| Spottail Shiner           |  |  |  |
| Stoneroller               |  |  |   |
| Striped Bass              |  |  |   |
| Striped/White Bass Hybrid |  |   |  |
| Swallowtail Shiner        |  |  |   |
| Tessellated Darter        |  |  |   |
| Tiger Muskellunge         |   |   |  |
| Walleye                   |  |  |  |
| White Catfish             |  |  |  |
| White Crappie             |  |  |  |
| White Perch               |  |  |  |
| White Sucker              |  |  |  |
| Yellow Bullhead           |  |  |  |
| Yellow Perch              |  |  |  |
| <b>Total Species</b>      | <b>33</b>   | <b>30</b>   | <b>30</b>   |

# Loch Raven Reservoir Watershed



# Loch Raven Reservoir

## 2005 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Shoreline seining to document natural reproduction.

**Largemouth Bass:** Excellent hatch.

**Smallmouth Bass:** Poor hatch.

**Bluegill:** Excellent hatch.

**Exotic Species:** Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) was observed for the first time on August 13, 2003 by fishery personnel. Hydrilla was found at 50% of the seining sites during 2005, including a site upstream of Dulaney Valley Road Bridge. This was the first observation of hydrilla upstream of this bridge.

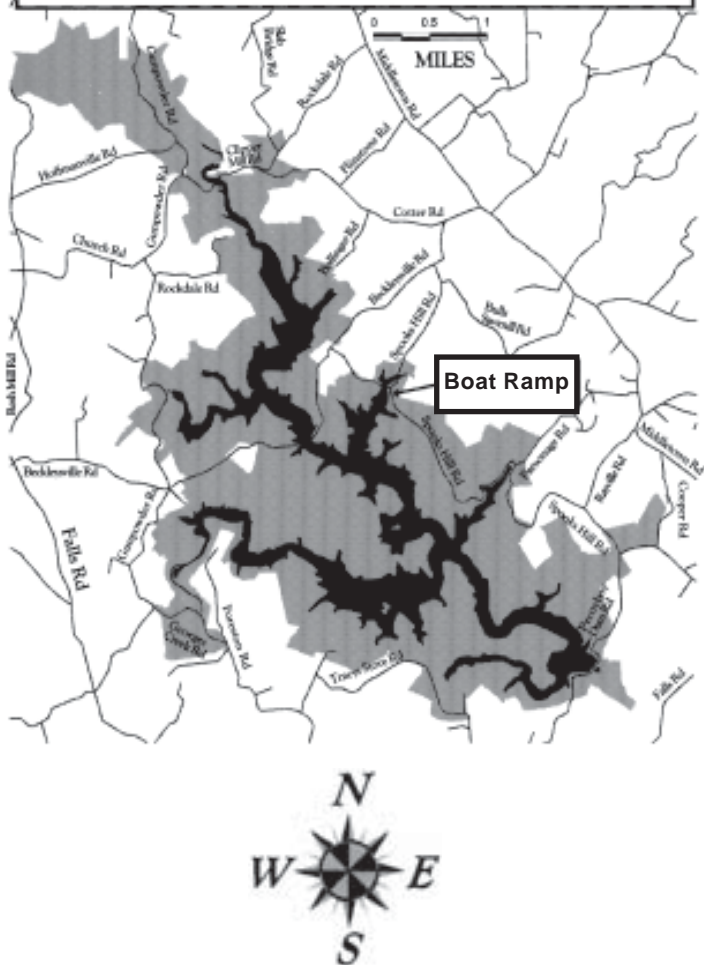
## 2006 PLANS INCLUDE:

Shoreline seining to document natural reproduction. Continue to monitor the spread of hydrilla.

**NOTE:** *Baltimore County has a limited number of boats, electric motors and batteries available for rental use on Loch Raven Reservoir. Those interested in more information should contact the Loch Raven Fishing Center at 410-887-7692, in season, or 410-887-3818, off season.*



# Prettyboy Reservoir Watershed



# Prettyboy Reservoir

## **2005 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:**

Spring electrofishing survey for walleye; shoreline seining to document natural reproduction.

**Largemouth Bass:** Good hatch.

**Smallmouth Bass:** Fair hatch. Spring survey yielded 8 fish ranging up to 3.5 pounds.

**Walleye:** Collected 5 fish; all were in the 20 to 21 inch range and were assumed from the 2001 stocking. No evidence of natural reproduction.

**Bluegill:** Good hatch.

## **2006 PLANS INCLUDE:**

Shoreline seining to document natural reproduction.



# Prettyboy Dam Tailwater

## **2005 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:**

Water temperatures were measured above Falls Road and below Blue Mount Road using continuous recording devices to monitor the new water release protocol. Since April 2004, springtime water releases have been through the 10-foot deep sluice gate instead of the 55-foot deep sluice gate in an effort to raise tailwater temperatures. The tailwater temperature increase is expected to result in an extended growing period for trout and other aquatic life. Additional activities included a trout hatch assessment and fall electrofishing survey at five established stations. From upstream to downstream, these five stations are Dam/Falls, Falls Road, Masemore Road, Blue Mount Road and Glencoe.

**Brown Trout:** An electrofishing survey for young-of-year (YOY) brown trout conducted at Bunker Hill Road on 06/21/05 indicated a very strong hatch. This was later confirmed during the fall electrofishing survey. Densities ranged from 747 YOY/mile at Dam/Falls to 2655 YOY/mile at Masemore. Numbers of YOY at Dam/Falls and Masemore were higher in 2005 than in 2004. Masemore showed its second highest density in tailwater history. Blue Mount and Glencoe showed all time record high numbers of YOY brown trout in 2005.

Brown trout standing crops for all five stations ranged from 21 pounds/acre at Glencoe to 209 pounds/acre at Dam/Falls. Glencoe is stocked and has a five fish/angler/day creel limit with no terminal tackle restriction. Blue Mount had a standing crop of 34 pounds/acre.



Standing crop at Blue Mount has remained relatively stable (32-40 pounds/acre) since the change to a two fish/angler/day limit and no terminal restriction management went into effect in January 1997. Generally, trout standing crops decrease as the distance downstream from Prettyboy Dam increases. Brown trout observed in the tailwater in 2005 were on average larger than those observed in 2004. Larger sized trout were also reported in 2005 by anglers who regularly fish the tailwater.

Adult brown trout density was higher in 2005 than in 2004 at Dam/Falls and Masemore. Dam/Falls increased from 2112 trout/mile in 2004 to 3168 trout/mile in 2005. Masemore increased from 1275 trout/mile in 2004 to 1671 trout/mile in 2005. Adult brown trout density has not been as high since 2001. The five sampled stations had adult brown trout densities that ranged from 550 trout/mile at Glencoe to 3168 trout/mile at Dam/Falls.

A single brown trout from Blue Mount was observed with a visible implant tag (VI). Trout were last tagged using VI tags in 2001. This brown trout was first tagged at Blue Mount in the fall of 2000 at 1+ year old and 8.1 inches long. It was recaptured in 2001 at 2+ years old and 9.21 inches long and again in 2002 at 3+ years old and 9.92 inches long. The station wasn't sampled again until 2005 when the trout was recaptured once more at 6+ years old, 14.6 inches long and weighing 1.33 pounds! This is further confirmation that tagged fish stay very close to where they were first marked. It also demonstrates how some fish are very capable of surviving heavy angling pressure, even when bait is allowed.

**Rainbow Trout** In June, 2005 rainbow trout fingerlings were stocked between Falls Road and Prettyboy Dam for the fourth straight year (2002 – 2005). The fingerlings ranged in total length from 4.25 to 6.78 inches and had an average length of 5.54 inches. MD DNR biologists have been stocking Kamloops strain rainbow fingerlings from the Albert Powell State Hatchery in Hagerstown, MD in an effort to bolster a decreasing rainbow trout population. Returns of the fingerlings stocked in 2005 were assessed during the fall electrofishing survey. Generally, estimates of return rates were good for Dam/Falls (406 fingerlings/mile) and Falls Road (289 fingerlings/mile). Masemore Road, which is downstream of the area stocked with rainbow fingerlings, contained 75 fingerlings/mile.

Overall, reports from anglers for the last several years have indicated that they are catching good numbers of rainbows upstream of Falls Road and seem very pleased to be able to catch them again. Fisheries believe the poor success of the 2004 rainbow fingerling stocking was influenced by a large resident population of adult brown trout of a size that was capable of exerting significant predatory pressure on the small rainbow fingerlings. Biologists are considering boosting the numbers of rainbow fingerlings to be stocked in 2006 in an effort to account for the anticipated predatory loss exerted by the burgeoning brown trout population.

## **2006 PLANS INCLUDE:**

Trout hatch survey in spring; adult and young-of-year electrofishing survey in late September/early October; water temperature monitoring near Falls Road and Blue Mount Road; continuation of a quantitative fish survey for species other than trout at the Masemore and Blue Mount electrofishing stations.



# *Brown Trout Tagging Study Below Prettyboy*

Since 1998, 1500 fish have been tagged behind the left eye with a green or orange letter/number code (e.g., H16). Signs along the Gunpowder ask anglers to report tagged trout by noting tag color, letter/number code, location caught, date caught and whether the fish was kept or released. Please call 410-442-2080 or 410-260-8287 if you catch a tagged fish.

# Maryland Fishing Report

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR) Fisheries Service publishes the weekly "Maryland Fishing Report." The report is available on-line at the web address listed below. You do not need to own a computer to access the web site. Access is available free of charge at your local library where you can print a copy.

[www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/index.html)



# Maryland Freshwater Fishing Records

(These state record fish were caught in the  
Baltimore City Reservoirs.)

## **Rock Bass**

1 lb., 3 oz.  
Andy Grosko  
10/26/98  
Liberty

## **Smallmouth Bass**

8 lb., 4 oz.  
Gary Peters  
10/4/74  
Liberty

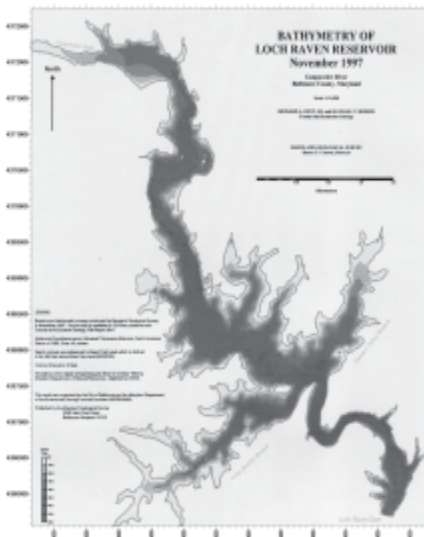
## **Striped Bass**

47 lb., 2 oz.  
Bob Bruce  
9/14/00  
Liberty

## **White Perch**

1 lb., 7 oz.  
Daniel Wells  
4/16/03  
Loch Raven  
(Gunpowder Falls at Phoenix)

# Bathymetric Maps



The Maryland Geological Survey has produced bathymetric maps showing the bottom contours of Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs. The maps are currently only available on-line and can be obtained by going to the following websites.

## **Loch Raven Reservoir Bathymetric Map:**

[www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/index.html](http://www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/index.html)

## **Prettyboy Reservoir Bathymetric Map:**

[www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/prettyboy.html](http://www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/prettyboy.html)

## **Liberty Reservoir Bathymetric Map:**

(in preparation, not yet available)

# Numbers To Call

## **City of Baltimore Reservoir Natural Resources Section:**

*General Boating Information Line*

410-795-6150

*Other*

410-795-6151

## **Loch Raven Fishing Center:**

*In Season*

410-887-7692

*Off Season*

410-887-3818

**Emergency:**

**911**

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# Violation of Watershed Regulations

The city reserves the right to immediately remove any boat when its occupants violate Watershed Regulations. Violators shall be subject to a fine in addition to the storage fee of \$50 per month or part thereof before the boat is returned to its owner. When any boat is removed for a violation, the permit for the season will be revoked and any fee paid to the city will not be refunded.

Destruction of public or private property is strictly prohibited. Violators are subject to fines, incarceration, and loss of their boating privileges.

Watershed Regulations are adopted by the City of Baltimore pursuant to Article VII, Section 33 of the Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition); Article 24, Subtitles 1, 21 of the Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition); Article 27, Sections 576 through 578 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1996 Replacement Volume) and Title 10 "Wildlife" Natural Resources Volume of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1990 Replacement Volume). Violations of these provisions are misdemeanor criminal offenses under both City and State Law which subjects violators to fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 as well as periods of incarceration upon conviction.

The City of Baltimore reserves the right to deny access to persons violating any of the Watershed Regulations.

# Notes

Prepared by the Office of Media Communications  
Baltimore City Department of Public Works  
George L. Winfield, Director



Reservoir Natural Resources Section  
5685 Oakland Road  
Eldersburg, Maryland 21784-6828

A DPW Environmental Publication  
[www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov)

**BELIEVE**